

Appl. No. : **10/829,631**
Filed : **April 22, 2004**

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Please replace Figure 10 with the enclosed amended Figure 10.

In the amended drawing, the "words" have been illustrated in the region between the ledge and the tread. The specification as filed provides support for this amendment in at least Paragraph 50, lines 3-6. Thus, the amendment to the drawing introduces no new matter.

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REMARKS

Applicants submitted a Response to Final Rejection on July 28, 2006. The Examiner issued a Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment on November 1, 2006 due to "fax copy marks" and the absence of a heading on replacement Figure 10. The noted issues have been addressed in this re-submitted response.

Claims 31-32 and 35-53 are currently pending. In an Office Action mailed on June 29, 2005, the Examiner raised rejections to the specification, drawings, and claims. In responses on November 7, 2005 and May 18, 2006, Applicants submitted amendments to the specification, drawings, and claims.¹ In addition, several new dependent claims have been added. However, these amendments were not previously entered because the Examiner believed the amendments would have modified the claim scope in a manner that would require searching in other fields, and the Examiner believed this would have been inappropriate on an application in which a petition to make special had been granted.

Applicants continue to believe that the responses of May 18, 2006 and November 7, 2005 were proper because the cited rule does not require updating of a petition to make special as the scope of the claims is modified. However, Applicants' counsel and the Examiner have agreed that Applicants' submission of prior art in the Information Disclosure Statement of May 18, 2006 from a review of classes D12/501 and D12/605 and the filing of an RCE would resolve this disagreement, thus permitting consideration of the amended claims.

The pending claims recite a tire comprising, among other features, a flange seat configured to receive a wheel with an extended flange and certain words in a region of the outboard tire wall positioned radially outwardly beyond the flange seat. In a previous interview with the Examiner, Applicants' counsel proposed the language relating to the content and location of the words on the outboard wall of the tire. The Examiner agreed that this claim language was supported by the specification and that the claims appeared to be patentable over the prior art of record. The Examiner also indicated that she would need to update the previously performed prior art search in view of the proposed amendment.

¹ Some additional amendments to the specification and claims have been made in this response that were not included in previous responses. These amendments are supported by the specification for the reasons provided by the Examiner in the Office Action of July 20, 2006.

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All pending claims are believed to be allowable. The tire inventions as claimed are neither disclosed nor suggested by the cited prior art. If any issues remain outstanding, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned counsel to expedite allowance of this application. Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

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